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WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

ACTIVISM THREATENS OUR COMMUNITY

New charges against Nov. 2007 Port protests

by WIP News Service

On May 15, the City of Olympia filed charges against three local activists for violations alleged during the November 2007 Port of Olympia protests. Twin sisters Katie and Patsy Hutchison and Shyam Khanna are all charged with "Obstructing an Officer." Khanna has an additional charge of "Resisting Arrest."

Background on the charges

The three defendants were initially arrested during the protests at the Port of Olympia in November 2007. 66 arrests were made altogether. Some arrests were made against activists performing nonviolent civil resistance against military shipments at the Port of Olympia. Others were arrested while simply standing on the sidewalk. Even more people were assaulted by the police while posing no threat.

Prior to these new charges, the city had only chosen to file charges against the first three arrestees, which were filed in November 2007. Those charges were dropped within weeks. Among the charges dropped was one against Evan Rohar, who had been arrested for trespassing on the fenced Port property, even though he had been allowed in by Port security.

Khanna was also among the three initially charged in November. At the time, he was charged for "Pedestrian Interference" and "Resisting Arrest." Those charges were dropped in December.

Now, five months later, the city has charged Khanna again for the same alleged incident, but this time for "Obstrucing an Officer" and "Resisting Arrest."

The Hutchison sisters were arrested seperately on Nov. 10 and booked for alleged "Pedestrian Interference." Six months later, the city has decided to charge them with "Obstructing an Officer."

So why now?

Given the duration of time that has passed between the initial arrests and the charges filed, along with pressure from *The Olympian*, it is clear that the city's decision to prosecute the three individuals is politically motivated.

In the past months, *The Olympian* repeatedly emphasized that no one from the November Port protests were being charged, while the Olympian Editorial Board declared that port protesters "must be held accountable for their abhorrent behavior."

On April 1, 2008, the Olympian Editorial Board issued an opinion piece which stated, "Why hasn't the city prosecutor's office filed charges against protesters arrested at the time of the [military] shipments last November?"

On April 30, Olympia City Manager Steve Hall met with the Olympian Editorial Board and told them that the city would determine appropriate charges for the November Port protests within the following two weeks. At the time, he suggested that the charges would involve the cases of nine individuals who were arrested on Plum & Union on November 10, 2007. Hall was quoted as saying, "We know who they are....It's clear what they did. *The other cases are, I guess, not as obvious.*" (emphasis added)

Katie Hutchison on November 10, near the corner of 4th & Plum in downtown Olympia, moments before she was wrongfully arrested. (Photo by Noah Sochet)

Two weeks later, the Olympian Editorial Board published a piece entitled "Lawlessness Will Not Be Condoned." The piece referred to "escalating violence in the community," drawing a link from the November Port protests, to the Dead Prez incident at The Evergreen State College on February 14 & 15, to the recent Olympia May Day incident.

The editorial called on the city to "live up to the message" of prosecuting protesters. It singled out Steve Hall and told him, "The two weeks is up today, so all eyes are on City Hall to see whether law enforcement officers mean what they say: There will be zero tolerance for vandalism and lawlessness."

The following day, the city issued a press release to *The Olympian*, stating that it was filing charges against Khanna and the Hutchison sisters. The city had not yet notified the three defendants at that time. In fact, the charges had not yet been completely processed when the city informed *The Olympian*.

▸ **ACTIVIST CHARGES** continued on page 10

Reflections on May Day 2008

by Peter Bohmer

The planning for the Olympia May Day and the resulting rally and march were a very worthwhile effort to connect the anti-war movement and GI resistance to the immigrant rights struggle within the context of the celebration of May Day – International Worker's day. I am very appreciative and supportive that the organizers made the focus and center of the May Day rally and march the Sanctuary City proposal, probably the first proposal in the country that calls for a city to be a sanctuary for both GI's and immigrants. It calls for Olympia to not arrest or detain GI's who refuse to fight in Iraq, nor question immigrants on their legal status. We need to connect issues and movements more, as happened on May Day in Olympia. The rally and march were an excellent way to put this proposal for Olympia as a sanctuary city in the public consciousness; the organizers of the May Day event deserve a lot of credit for this.

Sadly the message was lost to much of the Olympia community because of the actions of a few, none of whom as far as I know were involved in organizing the May Day event. The issue of graffiti on the Capitol walls or breaking bank windows is not primarily an abstract or moral issue of right or wrong, which has been the focus of some of the discussion. I do think that the rock throwing was morally objectionable because bank employees and customers were in the two banks and could have been injured when the rocks were thrown. However, what needs to be stressed is that the graffiti written inside the State Capitol and window breaking is bad strategy and tactics within the context of 2008 Olympia. How do these acts by a few, a self-appointed vanguard, build the anti-war or immigrant rights movement? They don't!! If a response is that they build some other movement, e.g., Black Bloc, that is opportunistic, as one is using other movements to build one's own.

No respect was shown to the organizers of the event, e.g., going inside the Capitol and writing on its walls, when the announced plan was to have a rally on the steps. No respect was shown to the May Day marchers, which included both immigrants and children, by the trashing of the banks so close to the march.

I understand the anger and rage against this oppressive economic system and share it. However, what does screaming at the police accomplish or breaking some windows at two banks? This anger is counterproductive and self-indulgent if it strengthens what we are trying to overcome. In the short-run, the anti-war movement here is weakened. These actions of property damage are not understood or supported by the overwhelming majority of Olympia residents and that is relevant in assessing it. Isn't one of our objectives to gain public support? Also relevant is the alienation of many of the marchers and organizers

Instead let us use this rage productively and in a cooperative way with other activists and progressive and radical groups – not to sabotage, even if unintentionally, what others are doing – instead to build social movements that can stop this war, gain amnesty and full rights for immigrants and eventually, revolutionize this country. Let us continue to work for Olympia to become a sanctuary city for GI resisters and immigrants.

We need to develop a plan, a system of accountability, so that our demonstrations or direct actions are not hijacked by a few who have different goals and tactics from what is agreed on by the organizers and participants in our actions.

I urge that those few who broke windows at the two banks or wrote on the walls of the State Capitol during the rally to reflect on their actions and apologize to the organizers of the May Day event. At the same time, it is important to remember that the six people who were arrested on May Day are innocent until proven guilty and may not have been involved in the breaking of the bank windows – so let us not take the police version as fact.

My hope is that all of us learn from what happened on Thursday, May 1st, 2008 so that we can move forward together to "Tear it down, and build it up."

Sisters targeted, victims of police abuse

by Olympia PMR

Sisters Katie and Patsy Hutchison are being targeted for prosecution following questionable arrests during the November 2007 protests in Olympia organized by Port Militarization Resistance (PMR). While 66 arrests were made during 13 days of civil resistance, three individuals – Shyam Khanna, Patsy Hutchison and Katie Hutchison are being selected for prosecution.

Patsy and Katie Hutchison were arrested on Saturday, November 10. While observing activities at 4th and Plum, Patsy became victim to the Olympia Police Department's illegal use of chemical weapons. Noah Sochet of PMR explained in a May 16 article appearing in *The Olympian* that Patsy Hutchison "couldn't even see when she was arrested." Patsy's eyes were saturated with pepper spray; while remaining untreated, she was handcuffed, placed in a police van for over 25 minutes, and then ignored by police. Patsy was in extreme pain. Her cries for help – though specifically ignored by Police – were heard by many, including her twin sister Katie, who tried to negotiate with police to get emergency medical attention for her sister. The police responded by arresting Katie. Though victims in a horrible scenario of police abuse and arrested without cause, both Katie and Patsy are now being charged with "Obstructing an Officer."

While Shyam's legal defense costs have already been secured in relation to these specific charges, PMR is still working to secure needed legal defense funds for both Patsy and Katie. If you can help, please make donations to:

Port of Olympia Legal Defense Fund
PO Box 295
Olympia, Washington 98507-0295

Additionally, Olympia PMR faces possible prosecution of the 42 arrested during the Nov. 13 Women's Civil Resistance Action. *The Olympian* reported "the city attorney's office will rely on help from the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office [in] reviewing the (Olympia Police Department's) arrests during protests Nov. 13, 2007."

Despite the court's attempts to criminalize the peace and justice community, we understand by engaging in nonviolent direct civil resistance, we are not criminals. Rather we are upholders of the law in resisting this illegal and immoral war. We understand the true criminals are those who resist us – the riot police and prosecutors, as well as those local, regional and national bodies that appropriate the people's resources to fund these crimes against humanity in supporting illegal and immoral war. The resistance continues.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *submissions@olywip.org* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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It's about time we had a full 12 pages!

ABOUT THE COVER: A historic view of downtown Olympia, near the corner of 4th & Plum on November 10, 2008. Photo by Noah Sochet.

See page 1 for story.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline: June 20

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donate to the Palestinian Children's Welfare Fund
As was reported in *WIP*'s May 2008 issue, long-time peace activist Riad Hamad , who chaired the Palestinian Children's Welfare Fund, died in April. The Palestinian Children's Welfare Fund (*pcwf.org*) is a humanitarian organization made of volunteers in 10 countries. 100% of donations received are used to improve living conditions for Palestinian children in refugee camps. There are also many fair trade items for sale from Palestine, including kufiyahs, embroidery, hand-carved olive wood, olive oil and honey. All profits go directly towards helping the children. There are opportunities to sponsor a child, buy an olive or orange tree to plant in Palestine, as well as donating books or educational supplies. Visit the website or send donations to : PCWF, 405 Vista Heights Rd, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Americorps hiring
Get experience working in schools and non-profit organizations! We are hiring now for positions starting in August in the Olympia area. We are looking for full-time (40 hrs/wk) youth and family workers to serve in Thurston County elementary schools and non-profit organizations. The positions start August 16, 2008 and end July 15, 2009. To apply, you must be between 18–25 years old and have HS diploma/GED. AmeriCorps service comes with a $1,037 monthly stipend, $4,725 education award and other benefits. Find out more on our website *www.communityyouthservices.org* (follow the "Programs" link to "AmeriCorps—Youth In Service") or call Allen Stanton at 360-943-0780 ext. 161.

Support Briana Waters
Briana Waters' address in prison is: Briana Waters, 36432-086, FDC–Seatac, Federal Detention Center, P.O. Box 13900, Seattle, WA 98198. For information and updates, see *www.supportbrianawaters.org*.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) proposed merger with foreign infrastructure investors & proposed rate hike—
FINAL PUBLIC HEARING
Public Hearing & Comment Opportunity
June 4 at 6:30 pm
Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., Olympia
Richard Hemstad Building (WUTC headquarters)
Second-floor hearing room

TIME IS RUNNING OUT – TAKE ACTION NOW!

Public comments become part of the official record. Please be sure to arrive before 6:30 as those wishing to comment will be sworn in as a group. Written comments can also be submitted to: WUTC, PO Box 47250 Olympia, Washington 98504, or e-mailed to comments@utc.wa.gov, or visit the UTC web form at www.utc.wa.gov/comment. In each case, reference which docket number your comments pertain to: U-72375 merger; UE-072300 electric, or UG-072301 gas rate increase.

The public is represented by Public Counsel Section of the Washington Attorney General's Office. Contact the office at: Public Counsel, Assistant Attorney General, 800 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, WA 98104-3188 or by email at utility@atg.wa.gov.

For social justice assistance with developing speaking points, contact Kyle Taylor Lucas, with Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) at (360) 480-1011 or email at kyletlucas@yahoo.com.

Amnesty International meeting
Friday, June 6 at 7 pm at the Mixx 96 meeting room, on the corner of Washington & State, downtown Olympia.

Do you want to campaign for Human Rights? Come join us! You can help make a real difference. Contact person: Kerri Griffis 360-867-9237

Cindy Sheehan: *"A Revolution of Values: Moving from a war economy to a peace economy"*
Sunday, June 8, 7–9 pm, Kenneth J. Minnaert Center for the Arts at South Puget Sound Community College

Cindy Sheehan, the well-known anti-war activist and Bush antagonist, who is running as an Independent for the House of Representatives in Nancy Pelosi's district in California, will be the featured speaker at an Olympia event planned in her honor. Also speaking will be **Linda Boyd**, executive director, Washington for Impeachment, and **Gary Murrell**, Green Party candidate for Congress who is running against Norm Dicks in Washington's 6th District.

Tickets at the door and advance tickets are available at Traditions, 300 5th Ave sw, Olympia 98501, (360) 705-2819. (Tickets $10–25, Students $5). Co-sponsored by the Green Party of South Puget Sound, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee, and the Progressive Action Committee PAC.

Join us for a fun-draising Tea Party for the whole family!
Sunday, June 8, 2–4 pm
Traditions, 300 5th Avenue SW

Live music and fabulous desserts auction so bring your stimulus check and do the sweet thing! $5 (kids free!) for tea. All proceeds support POWER (Parents Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights). POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated. For more information, contact POWER, 360-352-9716, *welfarerights@riseup.net*, *www.oly-wa.us/power*, *www.myspace.com/parentsorganizing*

Progressives' date night: Support *Works In Progress* with dinner and a movie
June 9–13 in front of the Capitol Theater
206 Fifth Avenue, Olympia

Please join us for our upcoming *Works In Progress* benefit "Bake Sale" prior to the showing of ***Body of War*** at the Capitol Theater. We will be selling lasagna, salad, brownies, condoms, cookies, and other delicious items. Bring a date! Bring the family! And give everyone a cookie!

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba International Conference
Friday June 13 and Saturday June 14
Welsh Hall, 215 E. 17th Ave, Vancouver, Canada

Ernesto Che Guevara has become a revolutionary icon representing the continuity of revolutionary socialist theory and practice. His legacy has been an inspiration in the dynamic search for ways to confront imperialism as the decaying process of the capitalist profit-driven system continues. Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (vcsc) is organizing this first International Conference in Canada on Che Guevara's contribution to the revolutionary cause. The conference will feature speakers from Cuba, Venezuela, Canada, the US & the Middle East.

Seats are limited, for pre-registration contact: 778-882-5223, *cubacommunities@yahoo.ca*

$15 for 2 days with pre-registration, $10 for each day at the door (if seats are available). No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Co-organized by: Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (vcsc) & Free the Cuban 5 Committee–Vancouver (FC5C–Van), Members of the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC).

Project: Transitions kickoff event
Saturday, June 14, 8 pm–midnight
4417 NW Fire Willow Lane, Olympia

Karaoke and music by DJ Alex Awesome. $5 cover. For more info: *www.projecttransitionswa.com*

Don't wall off the waterfront!
Tuesday, June 24, 6:30 pm; The Olympia Center (222 Columbia St. NW; downtown, next to Percival Landing). Attend the Olympia Planning Commission rezone hearing.

If you're opposed to the rezone proposal which would allow 90' "mixed use" buildings with expensive condos to be constructed on this isthmus, please attend this hearing. When you sign in, indicate that you are opposed to the proposal, and if you're comfortable doing so, testify.

If you want to talk, arrive early to sign in. Tri Vo has sent his potential supporters a postcard asking them to get there and sign in at 5:30!

Works in Progress distribution sabotage
During the month of May, *WIP* workers were dismayed to see several of our distribution boxes damaged and their windows broken, our supply of papers depleted very quickly in some locations, and one red distribution box completely vanished under mysterious circumstances. At the risk of sounding like conspiracy theorists, we suspect sabotage. If you have noticed anything suspicious, or your neighbor suddenly has a red newspaper box with flames painted on it serving as an end-table, please let us know (*olywip@gmail.com*). In the meantime, to ensure your continued supply of ***Works In Progress***, you might want to consider subscribing! Thanks for your support.

The new City Council and whose pocket they're in

by TJ Johnson

Kudos to the staff at *Works in Progress* for the excellent articles in the May issue about the growing influence of development and real estate interests on the Olympia City Council.

During the course of my time on the City Council, I witnessed a dramatic shift in how city staff and my Council colleagues approached development issues. While City leaders boast about their commitment to sustainability and the idea that growth should pay for growth, behind the scenes they are making every effort to fast track environmentally questionable projects, and using public money to increase profits for the development gang. Meanwhile proposals that would curtail development that would harm the environment (such as a rezone of the flood-prone Chambers Basin) or be more consistent with community values and the city's comprehensive plan (such as prohibiting Wal Mart and other big box retail) get torpedoed by city staff or council members who don't want to ruffle the feathers of the development vultures.

I believe there are at least four reasons for the new overtly pro-growth approach at the city. First, as noted by *WIP*, is the increasing influence of political contributions by development interests. Perhaps it was inevitable; as small local developers are increasingly replaced by large out-of-town firms, the money flowing into campaign coffers seems to swell correspondingly.

Second, there is a profound if naïve belief that more development will increase city revenues and benefit everyone. This is the old "rising tide lifts all boats" blather. Of course it is completely bogus, as multiple studies show clearly that increased development, especially in the form of the tacky single family homes that are increasingly replacing forests and fields, actually put further strains on already stressed municipal finances. During my years on the Council I consistently pressed staff to tell the Council whether a proposed annexation or development was a net gain or net loss to the city financially. After years of hemming and hawing, in 2007 staff finally began to admit that each new structure permitted dug the city into a deeper financial hole.

The third factor is the growing influence of *The Olympian* on the city's agenda. After listening to *The Olympian* rage for the last 10 years about how Olympia is so unfriendly to development (falling forests, more traffic, and record revenues in the planning department notwithstanding), city leaders have finally bought into the rhetoric. It always astounded me when I was on the Council to see the frenzy of staff and Council activity as they prepared for the quarterly meeting with *The Olympian*'s editorial board. If Mike Oakland and Vickie Kilgore saw all of the effort that went into preparing for these pilgrimages to their altar it would swell their already too big egos to mythic proportions.

Now, with the creation of Oly 2012, a pro-development front group spawned by *The Olympian* and several councilmembers to provide political cover, city leaders can claim that their pro-development actions are consistent with community desires.

The fourth factor is that those of us that have a different vision for Olympia's future have not successfully translated that vision into sustained political action. With so many of us distracted by the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, erosion of our civil liberties, rising food prices, rapidly accelerating global warming, growing poverty, a shredded social safety net (etc) we are fragmented and easily defeated by the forces of greed. Some have given up altogether. Others – myself included – have stepped back to reenergize and refocus. Still others lack a clear sense of how to translate emotion to action.

One thing is for certain. The development interests who now have most of the seats at the table are not likely to give them up without a fight. This was reinforced at a recent meeting of the local visitor and convention bureau when one of the leaders of the development crowd crowed about how good it was to finally have all three of the local city councils – Lacey, Tumwater and Olympia – in their pocket.

This is the new reality. The question we need to answer is obvious. What are those of us that don't want to live in another unsustainable, faceless, corporate, sprawled-out, paved-over, upper middle-class suburb going to do about it?

TJ Johnson served on the Olympia City Council in 2000–01 and 2004–07.

MAY DAY 2008
Revolutionary discipline & the politics of fun

by Christa Kilduff

In the aftermath of May Day 2008 in Olympia there has been a great deal of dialogue about the efficacy, appropriateness and objectives of the "rock throwers". It appears as if two antagonistic forces have come to a head in Olympia: Revolutionary Discipline and The Politics of Fun. We now have a great opportunity as a community to discuss the importance of maintaining a diversity of tactics, while remaining aware of their effective application.

I define Revolutionary Discipline as the ability to simultaneously work towards your immediate goals while maintaining behavior that is anti-oppressive and community minded. I separate this from the Communist Party definition and redefine it for Anarchists struggles. The Communist Party definition indicates there being a professional accountability committee; I am suggesting something much more static and localized. In regards to Anarchists, the discipline lies within the individual, but accountability remains within the realm of the immediate community.

The Politics of Fun is the belief that fun is revolutionary, conversely the revolution will be fun *and that the fun justifies the means*. This leads to individuals using fun as if it were an applicable tactic for Direct Action, or justifying their actions with "fun". This isn't to say that our organizing tactics should be boring and devoid of enjoyment. On the contrary they should be fun and inclusive to everyone who shares in our struggle against capitalism and oppression.

On May Day 2008 a small group decided their desires for fun and notoriety eclipsed the safety and autonomy of the larger group. Although no press release has been officially published, I can imagine the motivation behind breaking the windows of those particular banks. Bank of America and US Bank are two of the largest contributors of funding to Mountain Top Mining Removal (MTR). MTR is most common in Appalachia (home of the author) and continues to destroy the ecological community and in turn our own. For the past several years there have been, and continue to be, intense organizing campaigns to stop this practice (*www.ilovemountains.org*). The guilt of these companies is not in question, but the breaking of the windows of two banks at a non-MTR event appears frivolous at best.

A friend once asked me, "What was the last truly effective thing you did? Something that truly bettered the life of an oppressed or marginalized person?" At the time my only response was of being chased through a subway in a black bloc by police. I felt as if the spectacle of resistance I had forcibly inserted into the lives of commuters should be enough. I felt as if those smashed windows of a military recruiter's office would surely end the war, but five years later I'm not so sure. If breaking windows changed anything, wouldn't they just use Plexiglas?

We have an opportunity to start defining our community based on theoretical and tactical unity. Olympia's May Day 2008 and the controversy surrounding it, should serve as a lesson learned in our struggle to create self-governing autonomous communities. Olympia offers great promise, with many generations of Anarchists and community organizations to act as a framework for experimentation and implementation. If we cannot learn to create effective strategies and determine appropriate tactical responses we will not succeed, we will remain in the shadows. As Anarchists it is time that we begin offering solutions, and not just asking unanswerable questions written in broken glass.

To read the extended version of this article and others please visit www.hellaestella.blogspot.com.

Cyber-organizing: Local activists go online

by Janet Blanding

Two local activist organizations have launched websites in the last few weeks, "Friends of the Waterfront," a group which is working to preserve Olympia's waterfront views as a public resource, and OlyPMR, which mobilizes citizens to actively resist port militarization.

The Friends of the Waterfront website (***www.friendsofthewaterfront.org***) has been pulled together quickly in anticipation of the upcoming public hearing on June 24 regarding the proposed rezone of the isthmus area between Capitol Lake and Budd Inlet. Nevertheless, it is polished, persuasive, and replete with interesting and useful information. Graphic projections of what could be built on the isthmus if the rezone goes through are published, both those which were prepared for the City of Olympia, and those which Triway Enterprises is distributing, which are strikingly different. One section of the site is devoted to documenting the history of the battle waged against a similar attempt to develop this area, that was defeated in 2002, largely due to the efforts of Friends of the Waterfront. Documents in PDF format, such as the actual developer's rezone request and Triway's "view analysis" are available for the public to examine, along with links to newspaper articles and Letters to the Editor about the project. An admirable characteristic of the site is that it doesn't try too hard to sway the site users' opinions; it simply makes abundant information available so that people can decide for themselves. (The site's approach is a bit reminiscent of the history professor who refuses to explain the past to her class, instead opting to distribute historical documents and asking the her students to analyze them.) If you decide to oppose the rezone, however, the site offers information on how to obtain yard signs, window signs, and stickers which express your opposition to walling off the waterfront. This is a very comprehensive site – a great resource for providing citizens with information.

OlyPMR's site (***www.olypmr.org***) is a nicely designed and visually appealing outreach tool, although still a work in progress. A statement of goals and strategies, as well as a nonviolence statement help to communicate to the public what this often misunderstood organization is all about, and links and announcements about meetings and events serve as a resource to people with a higher level of involvement. Space has been reserved on the site for images and videos. Apparently those materials, some of which have appeared on flickr, youtube, and in *Works In Progress*, will be added to the site soon. As some of the protesters from the November 2007 action are charged and tried, let's hope that the site administrators are able to post updates so supporters in the community can get information about what's going on that hasn't been filtered through the dubious biases of the local daily media.

Both of these websites are useful community resources, and as someone who can't always make it to the meeting, the hearing, or the court appearance, I appreciate them as an alternative way to stay informed about what is going on with local activist organizations.

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www.olywa.net/speech

VICS PIZZERIA
360.943.8044
233 Division St NW

Challenging the guiding principles on "riot control"

by Mike Coday

The top law enforcement officers in Thurston County came out on May 9 with their "guiding principles" on riot control. Thurston County Sheriff Dan Kimball was quoted in *The Olympian* as saying, "People expect us to show leadership, and I think this is a statement of leadership."

These guiding principles pay lip service to civil liberties, but the only element of these principles that is powerfully stated and unequivocal is that there will be zero tolerance for property damage. These guiding principles suggest that the exercise of our most important civil liberties must be balanced against the inconvenience or difficulty that the exercise of these rights might cause to the "provision of necessary public functions."

A law enforcement expectation that the exercise of critically important civil rights must have little or no impact on the "provision of necessary public functions" is frankly ludicrous. The exercise of these civil rights must include the possibility of an impact on provision of public functions or the right to assemble and to seek redress of grievances is an empty promise.

This right to assemble, to seek redress of grievances, to engage in free speech cannot be balanced against public functions or inconvenience by a law enforcement agency. Deciding that balance is a court function. Here is the language of the US Constitution regarding these rights:

> Amendment #1: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

When the justice and peace movement came off the sidewalks and stood in the street this past November, the purpose of standing in the street was to have an impact on the movement of war materials through the Port of Olympia. The majority of Americans now want the war in Iraq to stop. The war continues. We stood in the street in November specifically to disrupt and interfere with a public function that is immoral and criminal. We expected arrests; we encountered violence and assault by local law enforcement. Local law enforcement agencies have so far failed to understand how their heavy-handed response to the November mobilization has contributed to subsequent events like the Dead Prez incident at Evergreen in February or the rock throwing incident on May Day. I challenge Sheriff Kimball and the other top law enforcement officers to develop and present their guiding principles on use of force.

When citizens come off the sidewalks and peacefully block the streets to impede a public function, arrests should be made if law enforcement believes laws are being broken. The prosecutor should bring charges and a court should decide whether impeding movement of war material through the community is a crime or an exercise of critical Constitutional rights. Law enforcement agencies that are found to have violated critical civil rights through arrests should face sanctions and consequences for the violation of these civil rights.

It is important for us all to remember how little accountability law enforcement agencies and officers actually have to face. The LAPD law enforcement officers who were videotaped beating Rodney King were acquitted of state charges. The four NYPD officers who fired 41 rounds, killing an unarmed Amadou Diallo in 1999, were found at trial to have committed no wrongdoing. The NYPD law enforcement officers who shot and killed an unarmed, fleeing Sean Bell in a hail of fifty bullets in 2006 were charged, tried and found not guilty of manslaughter and reckless endangerment. The wheels of justice grind slowly and poorly when law enforcement agencies or officers use too much force.

> Local law enforcement agencies have so far failed to understand how their heavy-handed response to the November mobilization has contributed to subsequent events like the Dead Prez incident in February or the rock throwing incident on May Day.

In the summer of 2007 the City of Seattle agreed to settle the 1999 WTO lawsuits brought by Public Justice by clearing arrest records, improving police training to prevent unconstitutional mass arrests in the future, and by paying $1 million dollars in compensation for the violation of civil rights. Has the City of Seattle learned a lesson about accountability and appropriate law enforcement response to the Constitutionally protected rights to assemble, to speak and to seek redress of grievances? Time will tell.

On May 16th, a civil suit brought against the City of Seattle was decided in favor of Romelle Bradford for false and unlawful arrest and excessive use of force. The jury awarded $268,000 plus attorney fees in this trial. Mr. Bradford's case has been covered in some detail by the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* under a series of articles on obstruction arrests titled the "Strong Arm of the Law." Mr. Bradford was supervising a club dance in August 2006 and summoned police because a potentially unruly crowd had gathered outside the club. Despite his identification badge and his Boys and Girls Club T-shirt, he was assaulted by a police officer, arrested for obstruction and held overnight. The *P-I*'s investigation of obstruction arrests "found blacks were eight times more likely than whites to be arrested for obstruction, and that about half of the cases were dismissed by the City Attorney's Office before trial." Needless to say, Mr. Bradford is black.

Law enforcement agencies should respect a citizen's right to impede a specific public function or they should move the matter to the courts through respectful arrests. The failures and misbehavior of local law enforcement agencies in the November mobilization will now proceed to the courts through civil litigation. A large group of citizens chose to exercise their right to assemble, to speak, and to seek redress of grievance and they were met with excessive use of force by law enforcement officers. The second round of the November 2007 mobilization has begun.

William Hamilton of the Olympia chapter of Veterans for Peace has recently filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Olympia for police misconduct during the November port actions, and more federal lawsuits will be filed. These are not frivolous suits, they are serious attempts to institute accountability against a system that is largely unaccountable. The misconduct of the law enforcement officers at the Port in November has been largely overlooked as a contributory cause of escalating violence in the community.

I challenge Sheriff Dan Kimball to develop and present a set of guiding principles regarding the use of force by law enforcement against peaceful protesters and civil disobedience that reduces the violence of the law enforcement response. I challenge Sheriff Kimball to develop and present guiding principles that include zero tolerance for unnecessary use of force against individuals who peacefully engage in civil disobedience. I challenge Sheriff Kimball, Olympia Chief Gary Michel and others to be accountable for their decisions, for the leadership of their law enforcement agencies, for the violation of civil rights and unnecessary use of force by their agencies this past November.

Mike Coday is a Vietnam War conscientious objector, political activist and small business owner. His email is mike@smallblueplanet.org

Here are the guiding principles released by Sheriff Kimball and the Cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater, and the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney, released in May 2008:

1. We uphold the Constitution and support the rights of individuals to free speech under the First Amendment.

2. We recognize that individuals have the right to peaceably assemble, in celebration or protest.

3. We will continue to work with organizers and leaders of those assembling peaceably to ensure open and honest communications before, during, and after such an event.

4. We recognize that public safety shall be of paramount concern to law enforcement in dealing with civil demonstrations.

5. We expect that acts of assembly will not harm, endanger, or adversely limit the rights or freedoms of other individuals or the provision of necessary public functions.

6. We have zero-tolerance for acts of violence and property damage and that an individual committing such acts will be held accountable.

7. We acknowledge the benefit of interjurisdictional and multidisciplinary training and exercises to foster a consistent and unified county-wide approach for law enforcement response during incidents of civil demonstrations.

8. We re-affirm these principles so that the law enforcement officers within Thurston County continue to have a unified response to incidents of civil demonstration that balances the rights of individuals to peaceably assemble and maintain the rule of law and order as mandated.

TESC alumni petition in support of SDS and the Evergreen way

EDITORS' NOTE: *The Evergreen State College, an award winning institution of higher learning, attracts students from around the country seeking an alternative and collaborative college education. Unfortunately, a disturbing trend has evolved within the Evergreen administration, seeking to "mainstream" the college by creating a hostile environment for political organizing and dissent on campus. What is most alarming is the targeting of students and organizations deemed to show Evergreen in an unfavorable light, such as those supporting the Port of Olympia protests and police accountability. The Evergreen administration is using local law enforcement, the media, and the invasion of students, privacy to intimidate and marginalize students who embody the founding mission because of a perceived threat to college funding.*

Below is a petition submitted by Evergreen alumni opposed to this current trend.

We, the undersigned alumni of The Evergreen State College are saddened and outraged that the Evergreen Administration has betrayed its founding Mission and the student's trust; further, we are outraged that the administration has promoted institutional violence, bodily violence, and interpersonal violence on its students and community members.

Whereas the college administration has recently functioned to degrade the founding Mission of The Evergreen State College and whereas they have ignored the organized attempts of the students to protect and preserve that founding Mission, as alumni whose interest it is to restore, protect and preserve the founding Mission and philosophy of The Evergreen State College – we present these demands:

We demand:

The administration immediately reinstates Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) as a recognized student group with full status.

We demand:

The college presents a written and public apology to the students and greater community for betraying the college's Mission and student's trust. The founding Mission of The Evergreen State College demands that the college works to sustain a community where students excel in their intellectual, creative and community service goals. We demand a public apology for betraying that Mission, as well for breaking almost every point of the college's Social Contract, including those related to the right to open forum and access to information, intellectual rights and freedom, and rights to privacy.

We demand:

The college stop aiding in the active criminalization of students by identifying students to police and prosecuting agencies (in some cases this has been done without the presentation of warrants, subpoenas, or indictments), and by providing private and protected information from student academic and registration records to local police and prosecuting agencies including US Federal Agents. Further we ask that the college actively work to secure legal defense and restitution funds for students facing criminal prosecution brought about by the college liberally and actively giving information leading to prosecution.

We demand:

The administration immediately and permanently dismiss member(s) of The Evergreen State College Police force who target students, staff and faculty because of their political beliefs and practices, for their ethnicity/'race', for their abilities related to mental and physical health, for their gender identity or for their economic class.

We demand:

The administration immediately and permanently dismiss member(s) of The Evergreen State College Police force who have used less-than-lethal weapons (TASERs) on students for non-violent behavior.

We demand:

The administration requires and provides Non-Violent Conflict Resolution in Emergency Response Training as well as Non-Violent Communication Training to members of The Evergreen State College Police force and all other paid or volunteer security.

To add your name to the petition please contact olympiagal@aol.com *or* pattyimani@hotmail.com

Student power and the sit-in at Evergreen

by Brendan Maslauskas Dunn, KTeeO Olejnik, Brooke Stepp, and Jamie Hellerman

May 30 marked the tenth day of the sit-in of Evergreen State College administrator Art Costantino's hallway. Students are demanding the immediate reinstatement of Olympia SDS and have recently added the additional demands that Kelly Beckham, an SDSer be offered her job back as well as compensation for time lost, and a change in the process by which student groups lose their RSO (Registered Student Organization) status that is determined by those most affected, the students and members of these organizations.

The banning of SDS as a student group is an indication of the current political climate at The Evergreen State College, one that has been increasingly suppressing student dissent, which includes the aiding of law enforcement agents in the arresting of students, the handing over of student records to law enforcement agencies, punishing students for their political beliefs and activities. This includes the firing of Kelly Beckham from Evergreen Parking Services and the firing of students who were allegedly involved in the events of February 14 Dead Pres incident but who have not been convicted or even charged, as well as the selective enforcement of a "concert moratorium." The Evergreen State College is also on a path of becoming increasingly more mainstream, which is pushing the college in a direction contrary to its original mission statement. The students sitting-in want to see an end to all of this.

Olympia SDS, which formed in May 2006, was suspended as a student group after sponsoring two back-to-back events on March 7. The first event was a panel discussion on the San Francisco 8 to discuss issues of torture, police and government repression, COINTELPRO, the Black Panther Party and political prisoners. The second event was a folk show with musical artists David Rovics, Danny Kelly and Mark Eckert to raise awareness about anti-war activist Carlos Arredondo, whose twenty-year-old son Marine Lance Corporal Alexander Arredondo was killed in Iraq.

Just two days before the events were to take place, the administration decided to cancel both events using the moratorium on concerts (created after the Valentine's Day rebellion) to cancel both the folk show and the panel discussion. Members of SDS consulted with the musicians, panelists, and community members who helped organize the events and decided to go through with them to honor the wishes of all involved and because SDSers felt their group was being targeted by the administration and this was a matter of free speech. In addition, members of SDS and many other students not in the group approached administrators Phyllis Lane and Les Purce to try and go through with these events. But the administrators did not listen.

The Evergreen State College is also on a path of becoming increasingly more mainstream, which is pushing the college in a direction contrary to its original mission statement. The students sitting-in want to see an end to all of this.

The events were a success but the administration came down hard on SDS following March 7. The group found itself suspended until January 1. This meant that SDS lost their several thousand dollar budget, access to school equipment, resources and facilities, and the ability to host events and meetings on campus. SDS went through the appeals process established through the school and had their punishment slightly lowered, to reinstatement beginning in Fall 2008 with a probationary period of one quarter. The last appeal was held on March 21st and SDSers are still awaiting the final decision from this appeal.

A Free Speech Rally was also held on the day of the last appeal at Evergreen where 150 students and college workers (staff and faculty) gathered in Red Square for the rally. Speakers from SDS, MEChA, Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and the Evergreen Animal Rights Network spoke about the free speech fight at Evergreen and made connections to political repression in the Green Scare, against MEChA in the Southwest and the FMLN in El Salvador.

When the rally ended students marched toward Vice President of Student Affairs Art Costantino's office in the Sem 1 building. He was outside of the building instead of in his office. Students confronted him and chanted "Free Speech!" and "Reinstate SDS!" Students attempted to have a discussion with him, but Art refused and walked away. The students then decided to march up the stairs in the Sem 1 building and sit-in outside of his office. Around 60 students started the sit-in.

Since then, students have been taking shifts in the hallway, with numbers ranging from just a few to well over 20 at times. Banners and signs hang from the windows and walls that say "Student Power," "Occupied by Students: Reinstate SDS!," "Free Speech," and "Welcome to People's University." SDSers and other sit-in participants decided to use the sit-in tactic as a last resort because all other options have been exhausted. Costantino in particular was heavily involved with the decision to suspend SDS and has spearheaded this most recent crackdown on political activists, free speech and academic freedom.

The space that the sit-in participants are occupying has been transformed into what is being called "People's University." It's a space where students have more control and wield more decision-making power over their education and their lives. Classes started on Memorial Day, which the police and administration wanted cancelled, and have continued throughout the week with a series of workshops, teach-ins and film screenings covering a variety of issues from radical queer history, radical labor history, post-Katrina New Orleans, lockboxes and prisoner support. Alumni, college workers, community members, veterans and people from as far as Tacoma and Seattle have stopped by to show their support, including Ed Mead and Mark Cook, former political prisoners and members of the George Jackson Brigade.

Efforts like the People's University that seek to increase student power are just part of the broader vision sit-in participants have begun to think about. Among one of the largest achievements so far is that this has become more than simply another SDS event. This is about all of us. The sit-in has proved to be a space where more and new people can get involved in fighting for social justice. It's about more than just SDS. The vision of building student power at The Evergreen State College is a guide for our practice and for our action. Sit-in participants approach this vision with the realization that this task is complex and is going to take time and hard work. These aren't things that are going to happen overnight, but will hopefully happen slowly, over time, and in a way that gets people's needs met while also challenging the power structures that oppress us all and providing meaningful alternatives to these structures. This means we are building the world we want to see in the here and now, in ways that push boundaries and get to the root of the problems we see facing us. As students, we are see ourselves as part of this process and because of this, want to see a democratization of Evergreen with those who are most affected having the most say in the decisions that get made here.

Among other things, this vision also calls for a radical commitment to environmental sustainability, dismantling structures at the college that reinforce violence and racism, finding an alternative to the police at Evergreen, fighting for collective liberation and increasing the decision-making power of those who are most affected by decisions that are currently made at Evergreen. A broader Vision Statement is being crafted currently and will be released to the public soon.

The outcome of the sit-in is uncertain, but what is certain is that the entire process of the sit-in has not only empowered people but has built some tangible level of student power at Evergreen, however small it has been thus far. The struggle is long and will take a lot of work, but SDSers and others at the sit-in are up to the task.

Brendan Maslauskas Dunn, KTeeO Olejnik, Brooke Stepp, and Jamie Hellerman are SDSers and sit-in participants.

Below: Students continue their sit-in outside of Art Costantino's office in the Seminar I building at The Evergreen State College. (Cell phone photo by Amy Levinson)

Victory does not give rights: The Colombian/US Invasion into Ecuador

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

In the predawn hours of March 1st, Colombian forces invaded and bombed Ecuador and killed at least 20 members of the rebel group Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia (FARC), including leader and international spokesperson Raul Reyes. Shortly after the invasion, it was revealed that the United States not only supported the action – but helped organize it. A Colombian defense minister told Agence France Presse that the murder of Raul Reyes was only possible through the intelligence work done by the United States – enabling the location of Raul Reyes to be pinpointed through his satellite phone.

The action – and the United States support for it – shouldn't be surprising for anyone who has some historical knowledge of US-Colombian relations. In 1962 – four years before the birth of the FARC and 13 years before the creation of Richard Nixon's drug war – the Kennedy administration dispatched Special Forces General William Yarborough to Colombia on an educational military mission to reform the Colombian military. The reforms were part of the National Security Doctrine of the United States that encouraged countries in Latin America to redirect their armies from external to internal purposes – meaning Colombia's military was trained by the US to target its own domestic population, rather than a foreign aggressor. The goals of the reforms were to train the security force "as necessary to execute paramilitary, sabotage and/or terrorist activities against known communist proponents."

> If a country gets in the way of Colombia's right to invade, then the United States has the right to dub that country as a state sponsoring terrorism and it is automatically discredited.

Fast forward to the present day, and we find an expansion of the National Security Doctrine within the context of the global war on terror, and an attempt to create a couple of new rights for the United States and its client states. Not only is the target of Colombia's military resources to be direct against fighting insurgent rebels, but Colombia – under USA direction of course – reserves the right to invade another country in order to get to those rebels. That is right number one. Right number two is this: if a country gets in the way of Colombia's right to invade, then the United States has the right to dub that country as a state sponsoring terrorism and it is automatically discredited.

There are some barriers preventing the United States and Colombia from actually getting these new rights. In regards to the right to invade: it is a violation of international law – actually several. The invasion violates Article 9, 19, 20, and 21 of the Organization of American States; hence the OAS's approval of a resolution accusing Colombia of violating Ecuador's sovereignty shortly after the invasion. Colombia and the United States have also violated Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, and continue to violate it with Colombian Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos comments that Colombia will not stop in carrying out attacks wherever it believes FARC rebels are based and US Defense Sectary Robert Gates support for such actions.

It is worth noting that the 62 years ago the United States was instrumental in establishing both the Organization of American States and the United Nations. However, since that time the consensus within the US – which automatically gets transferred to its client states – is that the principles and laws enshrined in these charters apply to those nations the US doesn't like. The nations the US does like are free of such moral restrictions.

That double-standard brings us to the second right: the right to accuse other states of sponsoring terrorism. On March 12 the US State Department announced that it was considering putting Venezuela on its list of states sponsoring terrorism. If this were to occur, harsh sanctions and trade restrictions would be placed on Venezuela. Venezuela – since the election of Chavez – has been resistant to US interference in the Americas, and strongly opposed Colombia's invasion by defensively putting its own troops on the border it shares with Colombia.

The state-sponsored terrorism case against Venezuela is based on a laptop found by Colombia containing electronic letters exchanged by FARC members. In it the members of FARC acknowledge Chavez's support and claim that he gave $300 million to them. All these accusations are within the realm of possibility – but all of them are far from being proven. The only records of the laptop pages open to the public are those printed versions that were given to the press in a packet by the Colombian government – and that packet has shown to contain discrepancies. For example, the Colombia government claimed that FARC rebels were meeting with high officials in the Ecuadorian government and produced a picture of the event to prove it. Later on, it turned out the man in the photo wasn't a member of the FARC – but of the Argentine Communist Party: a legal and peaceful organization based in an entirely different country. In addition, the Colombia government makes claims about the laptop files that seem far from plausible. They claim that the files prove FARC was working to get uranium. The inference from this statement is that FARC is interested in creating a nuclear weapon and has connections with international terrorist networks – a scenario that seems extraordinarily farfetched.

Putting the validity of the evidence aside, the United States and Colombia have another problem with claiming the right to accuse another country of sponsoring terrorism: neither country is in a place to have the moral high ground to make such accusations. Colombia is generally regarded as the worst human rights violator in the hemisphere with over 50% of the population living below the poverty line. On average a union leader is assassinated once a month. Just two weeks before the invasion, a US delegation of labor advocates traveled to Colombia to lobby the government to do more in preventing the murder of union activists. Recently, the United Nation has called for an investigation in the murder of six union activists. For years the Colombian government has supported far-right paramilitary terrorist organizations either with active support or through passive inaction. The paramilitaries have murdered peasants, labors leaders, and members in opposition political parties. Not to mention, relying on the drug-trade to fund their activities. AUC has admitted that 70% of their financial support comes from drug trafficking– far more than the FARC. Meanwhile, Colombia is one the United States' largest recipients of foreign aid, receiving around $600 million a year – double what Chavez was accused of giving to the FARC. The United States is constantly providing diplomatic and political support to Colombia, with reports by Human Rights Watch demonstrating paramilitary-CIA cooperation.

If the United States was really concerned with state sponsored terrorism – and terrorism as such – there is something very simple it could do to prevent it: stop committing it itself. The easiest way to do that is to merely follow the principles that it helped draft in the Organization of American States and the United Nations.

Strangely enough, Ecuador, the state that Colombia has accused of supporting the terrorist rebels, has decided to deal with the current crisis in South America through the legal diplomatic route. Instead of retaliating militarily against Colombia, they talked to its high officials and managed to reach a rapid diplomatic settlement. Currently, the Ecuadorian government is collecting evidence of the crime, and discussing bringing the matter before the International Court of Justice. In doing so, they may be able to teach the United States and Colombia the lesson of Article 3(g) of the charter of the Organization of American States: "victory does not give rights" – only laws and justice do.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) proposed merger (buyout) by foreign infrastructure investors and proposed rate hike hearing

TIME IS RUNNING OUT – TAKE ACTION NOW!
Public Hearing & Comment
June 4, 2008 – 6:30 pm
at 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., Olympia, Richard Hemstad Building (WUTC headquarters), Second-floor hearing room

Public comments become part of the official record. Written comments can also be submitted to: WUTC, P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Washington 98504, or e-mailed to comments@utc.wa.gov, or visit the UTC web form at http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment. In each case, reference which docket number your comments pertain to: U-72375 merger; UE-072300 electric, or UG-072301 gas rate increase.

The public is represented by Public Counsel Section of the Washington Attorney General's Office.

You can contact the office at: Public Counsel, Assistant Attorney General, 800 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, WA 98104-3188 or by email: utility@atg.wa.gov.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is the state's largest electric and natural gas utility, serving more than 1 million electric and 729,000 natural gas customers in 11 counties, primarily in Western Washington.

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) is the state agency that regulates private, investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities in Washington.

Last December, the PSE filed a request to the UTC for sale of the utility to a private foreign investor consortium from Australia and Canada. The transaction is valued at $7.4 billion. PSE has already requested and received merger approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). PSE is presently a public stock traded entity, and as such, public reporting and transparency are required. However, once PSE becomes a privately owned corporation, the details of its operations will be unavailable to the public unless required by the UTC.

Though PSE services more than 1.8 million customers, only 10,000 public comments have been received to date. Most people remain completely unaware of the proposed merger/rate hike and the many negative implications—for the impoverished already struggling to pay their electric and gas utilities, for long-term management by foreign private investors without obligation for transparency or public scrutiny, and for potential environmental and other economic concerns. Further, it remains a mystery why PSE failed to offer the public first opportunity to buy the utility.

Please contact Kyle Taylor Lucas, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) at (360) 480-1011 or kyletlucas@yahoo.com for assistance with speaking points.

No justice, no phony "dialogue"

by Noah Sochet, Olympia Port Militarization Resistance

In April, Olympia Port Militarization Resistance (OlyPMR) and several other peace and justice groups were invited to take part in a City sponsored dialogue about peace demonstrations at the Port of Olympia in November, 2007. At the same time, the City brought charges against three OlyPMR members who participated in these demonstrations. In the planning of the dialogue, it was decided by OlyPMR and by the representatives of the Port, the City and the Olympia Police Department, that the event should not go forward.

OlyPMR cannot endorse discussions with the City and the Police, while these institutions are actively criminalizing members of the activist community and pressing for more city support for war and occupation. In light of the cancellation, and the beginning of legal proceedings, the events of November deserve to be revisited.

For almost two weeks, November 7 through November 17, OlyPMR and other community groups held peaceful demonstrations that were met with excessive use of force by the police. In one instance, after stopping any movement of military equipment for 17 hours and successfully forcing a convoy back into the port, a line of demonstrators joined hands in front of the Port gate in nonviolent resistance. Removing demonstrators' protective goggles, police used close-range pepper spray, batons, and pepper bullets. On another night more than two hundred people rallied at the port. Thirty-nine women were arrested while sitting, arms linked, in front of the main gate. At the same time, a group of demonstrators attempted to blockade a second gate and were bombarded by police with tear gas, pepper spray, bean bag rounds and concussion grenades. Dozens of people were injured.

After this collective trauma, the peace and justice community in Olympia looked to internal dialogue as a tool for healing. In a climate of international war and occupation, we are excited for the opportunity to increase community understanding of the legitimacy of civil resistance and nonviolent direct action. We are dedicated to fostering awareness as the resources of our city and port are being used to further militarism and war. We are actively seeking opportunities to address misconceptions and misunderstandings about the peace and justice community. In November, peaceful protests were met with police violence. As we exercise our constitutional civil rights, we need a real community discussion of police accountability and reassurances that police will not use illegal force and abusive behavior against demonstrators.

We are a community of activists. As we seek ways to meet and talk together, finding common ground and creating a city that reflects our commitment to peace and social justice, we have to make the safety of our activist community a centerpiece of our ethical standard. We *are* our community, we *are* Olympia, and we are *not* interested in peace without justice.

Civil Rights leader James Lawson visits Olympia

by Nicholas Pace

"Leadership has a real mystery to it," said civil rights leader Reverend James Lawson during a recent speaking engagement in Olympia, "but if I had to choose a characteristic that defines the character of a leader, it is the 'behavior in the struggle.' When you think of positive leaders you generally get a visual of an action that they've done – one example would be Rosa Parks' refusal to go to the back of the bus."

Speaking in Olympia shortly after the controversial events surrounding May Day 2008, Lawson's remarks about the value of nonviolent direct action were well-timed.

Speaking to a diverse audience in several different Olympia venues, the alert and vigorous 80-year-old Lawson was able to give most of his answers and opinions from a broad point of view.

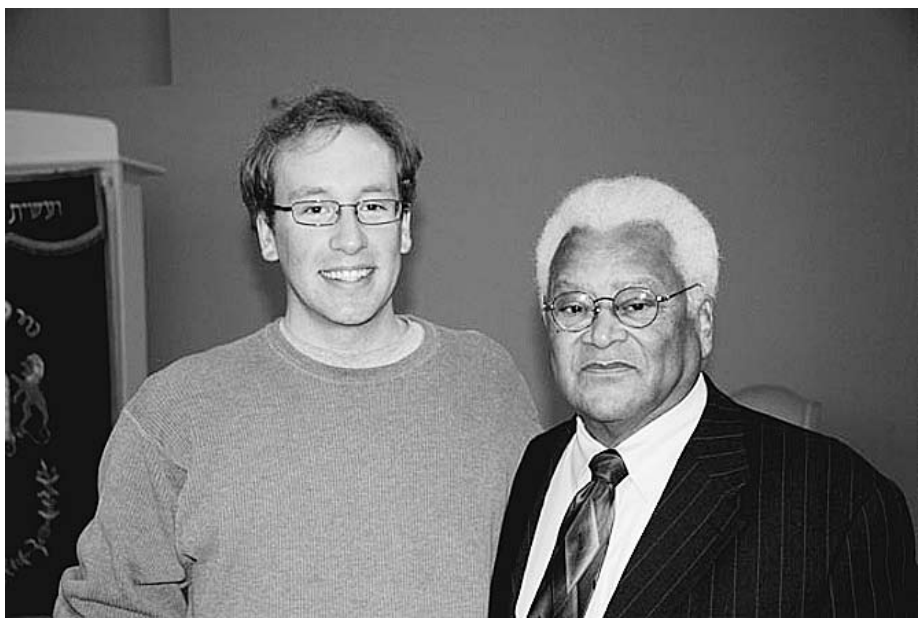
Much of the organization and methodology of the civil rights movement of the '60s can be attributed to Lawson. Lawson himself is a Methodist minister, who worked closely with Martin Luther King, who was a Baptist minister. However, Lawson told me that in his view the civil rights and activist ethics were by no means fundamentalist. "The more important thing to consider when talking about faith is the growing confidence in your own life as an expression that's more than what you are. That is the important thing to consider when incorporating religious teachings into your work." Lawson would even state during the lecture at Evergreen that one of the earliest nonviolent activists was Jesus of Nazareth himself. "Everyone knows this except the Christians," joked Lawson.

One thing Lawson strongly emphasized – not necessarily based on modesty but as a general lesson to the public – was that communal energy and collective wit and intelligence is often the key to resolving issues. "It wasn't my idea to desegregate Nashville. We all came up with it through community consensus." It also should be noted that individualism is not something in activism that, according to Lawson, should be emphasized. "Don't be individualist in your opinions as much if you want to make social change. It's much better to workshop ideas."

At the time when Lawson was visiting Olympia, the tension between students and police was a matter of public concern. Much of the community in Olympia has begun to feel antagonistic towards the students of The Evergreen State College; according to Lawson, it's imperative to approach these tensions and conflicts not with hatred but with nonviolent tactics. He also mentioned that one method towards compromise when people are faced with police brutality is to find common ground. When Lawson was in Los Angeles in the '70s – when racial profiling was a major issue – it was through dialogue, not violent tactics, that Lawson and his colleagues were able to get the police and firefighter unions to support their movement.

Lawson strongly emphasized to the Evergreen students that one of education's top priorities is to counterattack violence with education, as well as sexism, racism, and discrimination. And "it's not going to be easy," he warned. "No matter who you are, if you're going to fight injustice nonviolently, you are going to face dissent." Lawson noted that the educational system in the US needs to take a deliberate role in providing opportunities for positive leadership, but due to many universities and colleges being very capitalistic, these opportunities do not materialize.

"The grand experiment of most of civil rights movement was to reverse the 'ancient wrong' using materials from grass-roots methods, such as Satyagraha." Gandhi coined the term Satyagraha, a Sanskrit term meaning "the firmness of truth," to describe his philosophy of nonviolent resistance. Lawson studied Satyagraha while serving as a Methodist missionary in Nagpur, India. Lawson cautions that "in order for the movement to gain ground, there must be analysis and organization." Lawson believes the best example of this was the bus boycott movement in Montgomery, in 1955. "The news of this movement was front-page everywhere. I was in Nagpur, India doing missionary work at the time, but news of this was everywhere from Africa to South America."



James Lawson (right) with Olympia's own Bert Whitlock. (Photo by Glen Anderson)

During the lecture at Evergreen, I was able to ask Lawson what he thought of the the US criminal justice system. Lawson responded with "The criminal justice system in the US is criminal. The district attorneys in this country haven't been thorough enough with investigations, particularly since we since have old methods of punishment which most countries have abandoned, the most famous being the death penalty. Criminal justice like any social issue is an important issue and people can move it towards a progressive future by visiting prisons, abolishing private prisons, and through seeing the justice system through less of a narrow mind. One sad statistic in America is that police studies have shown that four civilians are shot a week that were innocent and un-armed." Lawson also mentioned that the political pressure which leads to unfair criminal justice laws must be refocused. "When Americans are asked how they want to spend their tax dollars, they are usually the same topics such as health care, housing, education, transportation, or other basic necessities."

Lawson emphasized that America is in one of the worst ethical and moral situations in a long time, and that we, as a nation, need to become collectively smarter. "The weakness of today's activism is the lack of communal energy. Individualism can disrupt that." However, despite these challenges, Lawson continues to emphasize that opportunity is still available no matter what might hold you back. When addressing the college students he stated: "I recognized that young people in colleges who were audacious enough were prime for being trained in non-violence." At one point a student asked Lawson whether he viewed the younger generation as the only people who could replace some of the flaws that elderly, in particular, the ones in charge of the government still want to hold on to. Lawson responded with: "Suspicion of the government is at sometimes essential, however there are many elderly who are supportive of change."

One of the things that I think summed Lawson's speech was when referring to what we as citizens who are actively inclined to make change should do. "I want to suggest to you that you explore the world, the city, the unions, the communities, and consider non-violence especially as it's the only way for our humanity to survive."

Nicholas Pace is an intern at Works in Progress.

...and Cindy Sheehan to speak in Olympia

Cindy Sheehan, the well-known anti-war activist and Bush antagonist, who is running as an Independent for the House of Representatives in Nancy Pelosi's district in California, will be the featured speaker at the Kenneth Minnaert Arts Center, South Puget Sound Community College, 2011 Mottman Road, SW, Olympia, WA 98512 on June 8, 2008 from 7:00–9:00 pm. The event is co-sponsored by the Green Party of South Puget Sound, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee, and the Progressive Action Committee PAC (PAC2).

Speaking on the subject, "A Revolution of Values: Moving from a War Economy to a Peace Economy," Sheehan will address the need to challenge our current leaders in Congress and to move the country away from its militaristic response to international problems to an economy based upon peace and social justice.

Five years after the invasion of Iraq, with more than 4,000 US military deaths, and somewhere between 600,000 and 1.2 million Iraqi civilian deaths, it is clear that our elected officials, even after the resounding message sent by the people in the 2006 elections, are unwilling to end the devastation.

Cindy Sheehan has been a brave and unfaltering voice against the cowardice that continues to be exhibited by our elected representatives in Congress. By challenging Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi on her decision that "impeachment is off the table," Sheehan offers the people a candidate who can be counted on to bring real change to our government and to jumpstart an end to the occupation.

Chris Stegman with the Green Party of South Puget Sound said "Cindy Sheehan represents the very best this country has to offer. "As the mother of a fallen soldier, Cindy Sheehan has the ultimate moral authority. She is a leading activist against the criminal occupation of Iraq. And she is someone who sees through the rhetoric of both major parties. I hope the public will take this opportunity to come and hear her speak her truth."

As Sheehan writes in "Fountain of Sorrow" (3/24/08), "I still fiercely believe that our present actions do affect the future and there are things that we can do now to prevent potential grief. We are called to not be just passive voters in America, but fully participating members of humanity in the world. Nothing will change as long as we sit around wringing our hands and whining that there is nothing that we can do about the mess we are in."

Also on the program will be Linda Boyd, executive director, Washington for Impeachment, and Gary Murrell, candidate for Congress (GP) 6th Congressional District, running against Norm Dicks. Tickets can be purchased at the door or at Traditions Café and World Fork Art at 300 5th Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98501 (phone (360) 705-2819). Tickets sliding scale $10-25, and students, $5.00.

The public is also invited to attend a pre-event dinner reception for Cindy at Plenty! Restaurant – 204 W. Ave., Olympia, from 5:00–6:30 pm, ($25 dinner ticket includes entrance to the speaking event – call Chris at (360) 705-3528 for reservations).

For more information about this event contact Chris Stegman at chris.stegman@comcast.net.

Cindy Sheehan photo by Jeff Paterson

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"Project: Transitions" Unveiled

New group for transgender support

by Nicole Lamb

Project: Transitions is a newly forming group in the Olympia area that aims to raise funds for transgender people's transitional costs. People often decide to transition genders because their body is in direct conflict with their identity. Over the past few years – through education and advocacy, the pain transgender people experience because of this, and the strength they have to confront it – support for transgender people has steadily built. With this support there have been steady improvements for transgender people, including Washington state's inclusion in 2006 of gender identity and expression to state anti-discrimination law. Still, transgender people and allies continue to fight transphobia and work towards equality.

A major concern for transgender people is health care and access to it. For those who want hormones and surgery to make their body more in line with their identity, the high costs of health care – often with access difficulties and little to no insurance coverage – can be a major obstacle. Other costs such as an entirely new wardrobe and filing legal paperwork adds to expenses for a group that often faces employment discrimination. To meet these costs, there is a history in the transgender community of people holding fundraisers to cover their individual surgeries and costs.

Our founders are comprised of Evergreen students and alumni with experience as advocates and leaders within the queer community. Three of the founders are transgender – both male-to-female and female-to male – who are in the process of transitioning. Our fourth founder is a long-standing ally of the transgender community and significant other.

To raise funds, we will hold parties and events that will be open to all ages, so that not only will we be raising funds but also providing a regular event for the community as an alternative to the bars. Another goal is to provide a database of trans-friendly providers (doctors, therapists, lawyers, etc.) for the community. We have begun to interview providers, asking questions relevant to the transgender community to enable a person to choose who will best meet their needs, as well as host a place for people to leave comments about their experience with the provider. Another important value for us is collaboration between groups, which we have been working towards with groups such as the Provider Project and Gender Alliance of South Sound, and in our fiscal sponsorship with Stonewall Youth.

As a new group, we are still developing the guiding rules and policies of the organization. Currently, we are recruiting board members to help lead the organization, with a focus on making the board diverse to reflect the community it will serve.

On June 14, Project: Transitions will be holding its kick-off event from 8 pm to midnight. The event will have music provided by DJ Alex Awesome, as well as karaoke. The event will be at 4417 NW Fire Willow LN on the Westside of Olympia. Cover will be $5 dollars and all proceeds from the event will be put towards start up and organizational costs. The event will be the first of many and will be an opportunity to learn about and get involved with the organization.

For more information contact project. email *transitions@yahoo.com* or visit *www.projecttransitionswa.com*.

Nicole Lamb is a pre-law student at the Evergreen State College.

Day Laborer Organizing

by Jon Kempe

Day laborers in and around Olympia are finding it a little easier to get to work these days, thanks to the Industrial Workers of the World. The Olympia IWW has launched a new organizing drive among day laborers centered around a beat-up old red van. The van belongs to an old Olympia wobbly. The insurance has been paid by the local Unitarian Universalist church, and the day-to-day expenses are paid for by donations from the workers getting transportation to and from the Oly General Membership Branch of the IWW.

Day laborers in every city and town make up the baseline of the workforce and are some of the most abused members of the working class. Transportation is often a major issue among day laborers, along with minimum pay, lack of workplace health and safety, and companies that squeeze them for every dime. By providing transportation, the IWW can demonstrate that worker solidarity can be used to meet the needs of each worker. This helps working class organization grow from the bottom up.

Day laborers in Olympia, as elsewhere, have to be at the corporate hiring hall several miles outside of town early in the morning in order to get their job placements for the day. Pay starts when they get to the job site. They must provide their own transportation, and they are paid the state minimum wage of $8.07 an hour, for which the company charges $17–22 per worker hour.

Conditions for laborers are routinely deplorable. These workers, who often have nowhere else to turn for employment, are often disrespected and treated as dispensable persons, with no recourse. For instance, Labor Ready in Olympia decided to close its bathroom and forced workers to go out back to relieve themselves.

Day laborers are unique because an estimated two-thirds of the workforce is homeless. This means that some must walk many miles at daybreak from their camps to the offices of the nearest labor shark.

The Oly IWW's initiative to help organize the day labor workforce started with one man. Jesse Shultz came to Olympia to help organize poor and working people. Jesse has been a laborer since before many wobs ever entered the workforce. He was part of an organization drive in Maryland that won concessions from Labor Ready for not offering show-up pay to workers that were overbooked by competing Labor Ready offices. It was Jesse's experience that brought the red van into being. Procuring the van is easily replicable; replicating the initiative of an organizer to start their day at 4:30 in the morning driving workers to hiring offices and job sites is not so simple.

Other branches may learn from the transportation organizing model. Day labor sharks, like Labor Ready, Labor Finders and Labor Works, employ millions of workers across North America in every community. They are some of the most likely people to get inside predatory industries and are often absorbed into the construction sector. It has always been the prerogative of the IWW to build working class organization from the bottom up; putting the red van in motion has been a great first step.

Evergreen hosts immigration conference

by Bernard Roddy

The Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference took place at Evergreen State College May 15–18. Organizers brought together central figures in the struggle to frame border issues in terms of migration patterns and individual rights – rather than in terms of criminal activity – and joined the hard work of border activism with the pleasures of Latino culture.

The opening panel on Friday, facilitated by co-organizer and Evergreen media faculty Beatriz Flores Gutierrez, introduced independent scholar Ani Goodenberger, Delle McCormick of Borderlinks, Jennifer Allen of Border Action Network, Robin Hoover of Humane Borders, and John Fife, a founder of the Sanctuary Movement, all based in Tucson, AZ. US economic and border enforcement policies over the past fifteen years have forced Latin American migration into extremely hazardous desert regions bordering with Arizona. Speakers addressed attempts to respond to the resulting rise in migrant deaths, increased military presence in border communities, and growing human rights abuses perpetrated by vigilante groups and border agents.

Saturday's keynote panel brought together community organizers working with Latin American neighborhoods facing the increasing violence of detention and terror perpetrated by the likes of the Minutemen and Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). Whereas Friday's panel emphasized faith-based responses by Anglo communities, Saturday's highlighted local Latino organization efforts. Rosalinda Guillen of Community to Community, based in Bellingham, WA, joined Maru Villalpando of Washington Community Action Network and Pedro Sosa of American Friends Service Committee in Portland to address the challenges facing families and workers.

Valary James' installation and talk reflected on the humanity and love imbued in clothing and other objects left by migrants in the Arizona desert; her work reflected on the natural transformation of materials through time, and her reworking of found objects to build her sculptures and shrines.

The conference successfully combined artful entertainment and good food with discussion and analysis. The kick-off event Thursday evening was an inspiring performance of "Las Mamalogues," giving voice to Latino women's stories about their mothers. On Saturday evening Correo Aereo, an exceedingly gifted dutet, performed traditional and original music from Venezuela, Mexico, and Argentina on the harp, violin and maracas. And following the music Evergreen guest artist Rodrigo Duarte Clark, prominent in the Chicano theater movement, led "Teatro de la Esperanza," a drama featuring Evergreen student performers.

The conference also sought to establish connections between the domestic crisis of the war in Iraq and the harassment of immigrant communities in the States. On Friday, Evergreen faculty Therese Saliba introduced Nicole Malkandi, the daughter of Sam Malkandi, a Pakistani-American detainee at Sea-Tac Federal Detention Center. And on Saturday, Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía, a conscientious objector and member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, discussed war resistance.

Characteristic of Evergreen's mission, marquee keynote panels were alternated with smaller workshops designed to engage critical thought and personal initiative. By putting an intelligent and creative face on targeted immigrant communities, organizers have challenged local communities to accept the responsibilities of peaceful coexistence.

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COMMEMORATING COLUMBUS DAY IN PALESTINE/ISRAEL

Israel & the United States: A case of "Arab holocaust" denial

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

Pushed into the sea: Palestinians flee from Israeli shelling following the 1948 war.

Within Israel the Jewish National Fund is seen as a respectable ecological agency. The purpose of the organization is to maintain Israeli national parks as places of ecological conservation and recreation. The JNF ensures the preservation and prosperity of pines, orchards, cactuses – even fig and almond trees. They have constructed picnic areas and playgrounds – all designed in an eco-friendly manner – and provide eco-tours that allow Israelis to enjoy the delicacy of Mother Earth, while minimizing one's ecological footprint.

The only problem with the areas under JNF control is what is underneath them. Buried in the ground are the remains of once thriving Palestinian villages – populated and rich in culture – that were there sixty years ago. Today, the history of those villages is trapped under meters of soil. Instead of being remembered for this, instead of the sites being places for reflection and mourning, the former Palestinian villages are covered up and used as recreational testaments to the "liberal nature" of the State of Israel.

The burying of Palestinian villages among the national parks of Israel is an appropriate metaphor for the burying of ethnic cleansing of Palestine in the mind of most Israelis. This past May, many celebrated the creation of the Israeli state, but others took the time to recognize *al-Nakba* – "the catastrophe."

Immediately after the success of making the occupation of Palestine too costly for the British, the Jewish insurgency turned its "gun Zionism" on the indigenous Arab population. The goal was to banish as many Arabs from the land as possible to make way for the creation for Israel. Approximately 700,000 Palestinians left their home in a desperate attempt to escape Zionist violence. Reja-e Busailah, a survivor from the town of Lydda described that during the Arab exodus she "passed dead babies and live babies, all the same, abandoned on the side or in ditches…Someone talked later having seen a baby alive on the bosom of a dead woman." Even more startling was the massacre of Deir Yassin where the terrorist organization Irgun was responsible for "many sexual atrocities… Many girls were raped and later slaughtered. Old women were also molested. One story…a case in which a young girl was literally torn in two."

Of course these accounts were immediately denied by Menachem Begin (leader of the Irgun and eventual prime minster of Israel) through the Haganah – the "legitimate" Zionist organization that provided moderate cover for the Irgun actions. For Begin, the problem wasn't a process of ethnic cleansing on the part of the Zionist by the fact that "Arabs throughout the country, induced to believe wild tales of '*Irgun butchery*.'"

Begin's Arab holocaust denial has not only lived on in Israel, but has been institutionalized. Just a few days after the State of Israel celebrated the 60th anniversary of its creation, Israel's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Carmon, called on the UN to stop using the phrase *al-Nakba*, claiming that it was nothing more than a tool of propaganda from Arab nations. Not even a week later, Norman Finkelstein – a Jewish-American political scientist who has been critical of Israel – was detained upon entering the country. Later, claiming security reasons, he was banished from the state for the next ten years.

The iconic "blue boxes" were used to raise funds internationally for the JNF. The narrative of "redeem[ing] and reclaim[ing] the Land of Israel" served to whitewash the mass dispossession of Palestine's existing inhabitants. Photo by "Savta Dotty."

This mechanism of psychological and political repression in regards to al-Nakba has been described by Israeli scholar Ilan Pappé in his book, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*. He explains that "deeply rooted in people's psyche, this mechanism exactly…(replaces) Palestinian sites of trauma and memory by spaces of leisure and entertainment for Israelis." Psychologically, the point of al-Nakba denial is to turn suffering into pleasure, misery into joy, mourning into celebration; politically it turns repression into security, war into peace, apartheid into justice.

Expectedly, Israel's staunchest ally – the United States – shares in its denial. On May 15, before the Knesset, President Bush recalled the mythology of Israel's war for independence:

> The joy of independence was tempered by the outbreak of battle, a struggle that has continued for six decades. Yet in spite of the violence, in defiance of the threats, Israel has built a thriving democracy in the heart of the Holy Land. You have welcomed immigrants from the four corners of the Earth. You have forged a free and modern society based on the love of liberty, a passion for justice, and a respect for human dignity. You have worked tirelessly for peace. You have fought valiantly for freedom.

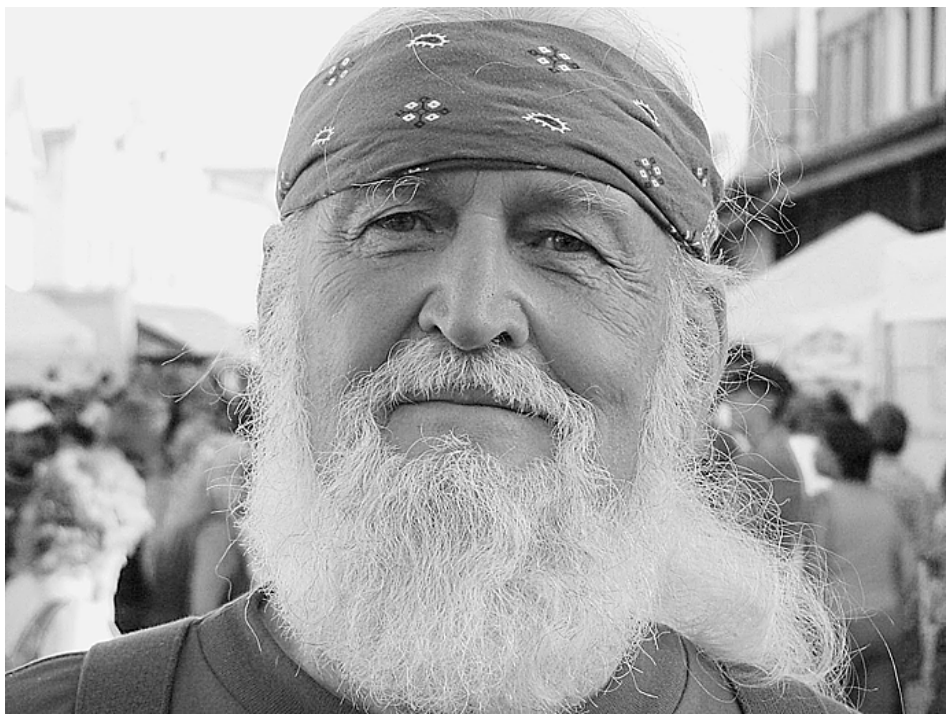
A day before the speech it was reported by Fox News that Bush would briefly mention al-Nakba, but this turned out to be false. Absent from the rhetoric are any remarks on the ethnic cleansing of Arabs, the current state of the occupation, or the denial of the right of return. Instead there are only comments on Israel's "love of liberty" and "passion for justice" and working "tirelessly for peace." Rather than being condemned for shamelessly rewriting history, Bush's remarks were met with exuberant praise. Again, the "Western world" has set a double-standard: while Jewish holocaust denial is condemned and even made illegal in some countries, Arab holocaust denial is practiced and endorsed by the powers that be.

For some people the denial of past crimes is of great importance; it helps explain the causes of current crimes, their possible solutions, and the repercussions for not pursuing those solutions. If Israel isn't able to admit that its birth is the result of a process of ethnic cleansing, then it will never be able to humble itself before its neighbors for the sake of peace. By no accounts has Israel's ongoing war with the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors made its citizens safer. Similarly, the United States' constant support for Israel has become the main grievance against the US in the Arab world. Osama bin Laden declared that it was one of the principle reasons for targeting the US. The failure to acknowledge these facts – like the failure to acknowledge al-Nakba – is an ongoing pattern for both Israel and the United States.

Fortunately, some moderate voices have had a different perspective. Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said that Bush's trip to Israel was a "bad omen," and, referring to democratic accountability, commented that "your people will punish you one day."

Folksinger, storyteller, railroad tramp Utah Phillips dead at 73

Obituary provided by the family of Utah Phillips



Utah Phillips, a seminal figure in American folk music who performed extensively and tirelessly for audiences on two continents for 38 years, died at home on May 23 of congestive heart failure in Nevada City, California, a small town in the Sierra Nevada mountains where he lived for the last 21 years with his wife, Joanna Robinson, a freelance editor.

Born Bruce Duncan Phillips on May 15, 1935 in Cleveland, Ohio, he was the son of labor organizers. Whether through this early influence or an early life that was not always tranquil or easy, by his twenties Phillips demonstrated a lifelong concern with the living conditions of working people. He was a proud member of the Industrial Workers of the World, popularly known as the "Wobblies," an organizational artifact of early twentieth-century labor struggles that has seen renewed interest and growth in membership in the last decade, not in small part due to his efforts to popularize it.

Phillips served as an Army private during the Korean War, an experience he would later refer to as the turning point of his life. Deeply affected by the devastation and human misery he had witnessed, upon his return to the United States he began drifting, riding freight trains around the country. His struggle would be familiar today, when the difficulties of returning combat veterans are more widely understood, but in the late fifties Phillips was left to work them out for himself. Destitute and drinking, Phillips got off a freight train in Salt Lake City and wound up at the Joe Hill House, a homeless shelter operated by the anarchist Ammon Hennacy, a member of the Catholic Worker movement and associate of Dorothy Day.

Phillips credited Hennacy and other social reformers he referred to as his "elders" with having provided a philosophical framework around which he later constructed songs and stories he intended as a template his audiences could employ to understand their own political and working lives. They were often hilarious, sometimes sad, but never shallow.

"He made me understand that music must be more than cotton candy for the ears," said John McCutcheon, a nationally-known folksinger and close friend. In the creation of his performing persona and work, Phillips drew from influences as diverse as Borscht Belt comedian Myron Cohen, folksingers Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, and Country stars Hank Williams and T. Texas Tyler.

A stint as an archivist for the State of Utah in the 1960s taught Phillips the discipline of historical research; beneath the simplest and most folksy of his songs was a rigorous attention to detail and a strong and carefully-crafted narrative structure. He was a voracious reader in a surprising variety of fields.

Meanwhile, Phillips was working at Hennacy's Joe Hill house. In 1968 he ran for a seat in the US Senate on the Peace and Freedom Party ticket. The race was won by a Republican candidate, and Phillips was seen by some Democrats as having split the vote. He subsequently lost his job with the State of Utah, a process he described as "blacklisting."

Phillips left Utah for Saratoga Springs, New York, where he was welcomed into a lively community of folk performers centered at the Caffè Lena, operated by Lena Spencer. "It was the coffeehouse, the place to perform. Everybody went there. She fed everybody," said John "Che" Greenwood, a fellow performer and friend.

Over the span of the nearly four decades that followed, Phillips worked in what he referred to as "the Trade," developing an audience of hundreds of thousands and performing in large and small cities throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. His performing partners included Rosalie Sorrels, Kate Wolf, John McCutcheon and Ani DiFranco.

"He was like an alchemist," said Sorrels, "He took the stories of working people and railroad bums and he built them into work that was influenced by writers like Thomas Wolfe, but then he gave it back, he put it in language so the people whom the songs and stories were about still had them, still owned them. He didn't believe in stealing culture from the people it was about."

> "He took the stories of working people and railroad bums and he built them into work that was influenced by writers like Thomas Wolfe, but then he gave it back, he put it in language so the people whom the songs and stories were about still had them, still owned them. He didn't believe in stealing culture from the people it was about."

A single from Phillips's first record, "Moose Turd Pie," a rollicking story about working on a railroad track gang, saw extensive airplay in 1973. From then on, Phillips had work on the road. His extensive writing and recording career included two albums with Ani DiFranco which earned a Grammy nomination. Phillips's songs were performed and recorded by Emmylou Harris, Waylon Jennings, Joan Baez, Tom Waits, Joe Ely and others. He was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Folk Alliance in 1997. Phillips, something of a perfectionist, claimed that he never lost his stage fright before performances. He didn't want to lose it, he said; it kept him improving.

Phillips began suffering from the effects of chronic heart disease in 2004, and as his illness kept him off the road at times, he started a nationally syndicated folk-music radio show, "Loafer's Glory," produced at KVMR-FM and started a homeless shelter in his rural home county, where down-on-their-luck men and women were sleeping under the manzanita brush at the edge of town. Hospitality House opened in Grass Valley, CA in 2005 and continues to house 25 to 30 guests a night. In this way, Phillips returned to the work of his mentor Hennacy in the last four years of his life.

Phillips died at home, in bed, in his sleep, next to his wife. He is survived by his son Duncan and daughter-in-law Bobette of Salt Lake City, son Brendan of Olympia, Washington; daughter Morrigan Belle of Washington, DC; stepson Nicholas Tomb of Monterrey, California; stepson and daughter-in-law Ian Durfee and Mary Creasey of Davis, California; brothers David Phillips of Fairfield, California, Ed Phillips of Cleveland, Ohio and Stuart Cohen of Los Angeles; sister Deborah Cohen of Lisbon, Portugal; and a grandchild, Brendan. He was preceded in death by his father Edwin Phillips and mother Kathleen, and his stepfather, Syd Cohen.

The family requests memorial donations to Hospitality House, PO Box 3223, Grass Valley, California 95945 (530) 271-7144.

▸ **CHARGES** continued from page 1

Additionally, the three defendants were not arrested on Plum & Union. Their cases were among the ones that Hall had previously stated were "not as obvious." Along with the puzzling charges, many local activists have been left wondering why Khanna and the Hutchisons were specifcally chosen to be the scapegoats for the supposed "escalating violence in the community."

Arraignment

Arraignment for the three defendants commenced on May 28. Just prior to the arraignment, city prosecutor Kalo Wilcox offered a plea bargain for the three, which all three defendants refused. Instead, they plead not guilty to the charges.

Because the three were not being detained, the city was not obligated to offer probable cause during arraignment, leaving the defendants and the local activist community to remain puzzled about the nature of the misdemeanor charges against the three.

Additionally, Khanna's attorney, Larry Hildes, indicated that he would be filing a motion to dismiss based on double jeopardy and a motion against the breech of speedy trial, stemming from the initial charges against Khanna, which were dropped in December and revisited in May.

Following arraignment, another arrest

After the morning of his arraignment on May 28, Khanna was tailed by the Olympia police. Khanna was walking alone to the Intercity Transit station when he was stopped by Officer O'Neill at the corner of 4th and Adams.

According to Hildes, O'Neill stopped Khanna and demanded his ID. Khanna refused, stating that he was not obligated to. O'Neill then put Khanna under arrest and slammed Khanna against the police car. According to Hildes, O'Neill placed his hand down Khanna's pants and grabbed his genitals. When Khanna attempted to use his cell phone to call Hildes, O'Neill snatched the phone away from Khanna.

The phone was later found and eventually recovered by Khanna's friends, who only then learned of Khanna's arrest.

Khanna was held in the Thurston County jail until the following day, where he was released on personal recognizance. He is being charged with third degree felony assault of an officer, because O'Neill claims that Khanna had spit on him during the May Day incident downtown.

Khanna can be seen on the *Olympian* website in a photograph that was taken during May Day. He is pictured being shot with a pepper ball round in the groin area at close range by an OPD officer.

It remains to be seen what the city does next in its attempt to appease the manufactured public perceptions of the evil activist scourge and their reported "escalating violence in the community."

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A "perfect storm" or a manufactured crisis?

Understanding the global food shortage

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

An international consensus has formed that the world is in the middle of a "perfect storm" of factors causing the price of food to dramatically increase within a short period of the time. For some of the world's poorest, the price of food has increased 80% since the beginning of the year. The World Bank has declared that 33 countries are facing political instability due to food shortages and that without the addition of $500 million to global food aid organizations, another 100 million people will be added to the list of 800 million who die every year of malnourishment and starvation. Jean Ziegler, the United Nations special rapporteur on the right to food, has referred to the crisis as a "silent mass murder."

The willingness of international institutions to bring attention to this extremely dire situation is commendable. However, there is an inherent problem with referring to the crisis as a "perfect storm": people don't make storms; they are phenomena of nature, not of society. The constant reiteration of the crisis as a "perfect storm" has an ideological underpinning; it serves to reinforce the "naturalness" of the global food market, and frames the debate about food cost in a manner that favors only two solutions – foreign aid and trade liberalization. Economic sovereignty is still out of the question. In reality, there is nothing "natural" about the global food market – it is a highly constructed institution. And foreign aid, while offering some much-needed relief, won't fix the underlying problems. Trade liberalization will not only make it worse, but is one of the primary reasons we got into the crisis in the first place.

There are many reasons as to why the price of food is rising, but the primary reasons all have to do with the energy industry and its effects on the environment. Since the end of World War I the global economy has existed as an oil economy. For the past year oil prices have increased dramatically due to a lack of supply caused by the growing shortage of easily accessible crude. This shortage is worsened by an increased demand for oil from India and China, turmoil in Iraq, and the Bush administration's threats to Iran. Combined, these factors have driven up the prices of oil to unbelievable amounts in a very short period of time. Oil is recently hit $134 a barrel; this time last year it was about $60 a barrel. The rising cost of oil leads to an increase in the cost of transportation, storage, agricultural inputs, and other factors which directly affect the price of food. Oil is also has having secondary effects on the price of food by contributing to global climate change. Climate change hasn't deterred the overall production of food, but for key areas of the world it is a major issue and is definitely having an impact on diminishing supply. Australia has been hit hard with two years of droughts back to back. Southeast Asia and Africa – the two areas of the world that suffer from the greatest percentage of malnourished people – are also having troubles. The International Food Policy Research Institute reported that Southeast Asia could lose up to 22% of its cereal production and Africa could lose all its wheat by 2080 due to climate change.

Unfortunately the alternative energy sources that are being sought out to replace oil are also adding to the problem of high food prices. Globally, cereal crops actually increased this year – with a record of 1.66 billion tons! – but a greater portion of this crop is being used for ethanol production. In the United States, 335 million tons of maize this year was produced for ethanol. This is up by 25% from the previous year. Not only that, but because of the high energy use of ethanol production, it has not proven to be a true alternative to oil. Since last year, the United States switched one-quarter of its total maize crop from food to ethanol, while its dependency on foreign oil only decreased by one percent.

Rising food cost is also directly related to obesity through the pitting of two types of food against each other; in this case, it is grains versus meat. Part of the "Cola-Colonization" of developing nations is changing their traditional diets to mimic those that are more common in the Western world. This involves an increased demand for meat. This is especially the case for beef and pork, the consumption of which is increasing in China, India, and Latin America. Cereals, which could be otherwise fed to humans directly, are fed to livestock at a great loss of calories. As with ethanol, the increased demand for meat is causing the supply of cereals to shrink, thus driving up the price. What this means is that while the rising bourgeoisie in China and India may be able to adopt the diet of their Western counterparts, they do so at the cost of increasing starvation for people in rest of Asia.

All these factors are compounded by the world's growing dependency on (mostly) the United States to feed it. The United States alone provides 60% of the world's corn, and is the third largest wheat producer. This control over the world's stomach has been brought about not "naturally," but by a history of neo-liberal economics pressed upon countries by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). Developing nations are compelled through loan conditions to remove tariffs, end subsidies, and compete with the United States – which has tariffs and subsidizes its agricultural industry at over $16 billion a year. Predictably, the cheap US agricultural products destroy other country's economies and centralize the world food source on a few key areas. This scenario leaves much of the world's food potential untapped, and makes the global food economy vulnerable to shortages, high prices, and the political whims of a few countries.

There is no doubt that the main cause of hunger in the world is poverty. In certain areas of the world, mostly in rural Africa and the Asia Pacific region, people are caught in a poverty trap. The inability to afford key resources, like fertilizers or farming equipment, makes it impossible for the poor to compete in a global market. Thus, they fall behind those who can afford to compete. Thus, the gap between rich and poor widens. Thus, it bcomes harder and harder for the poor to get ahead. This trap is politically created, through unequal distribution of wealth and energy and agricultural policies, not naturally created through the ups and downs of so-called market forces If we are ever going to solve the issue of global poverty then we must begin to understand economies in the terms of sovereignty, equality, and human rights – and not just profits and growth.

As you may have guessed, Olympia expatriate Marco Rosaire Rossi writes frequently for Works in Progress.

Grow your own

There are local responses and events relating to the global food crisis. Heather Flores spoke at Traditions Fair Trade Cafe about her ideas on food, gardening and community on May 6. She also sold her book *Food Not Lawns*, which is a well-written manifesto on a holistic approach to living your politics and growing your own potatoes. Terra Commons is the local 501(c)3 that sponsored Heather's talk and also sponsored a slideshow by David Sansone of Perennial Harvest on May 22. Terra Commons has also sponsored workshops by TESC graduate Marisha Auerbach on converting your lawn to an environment that can feed your soul and put food on your table.

To learn more about how you can make changes in your life and lawn that respond to the state of the planet, climate change, and the global food crisis, visit Terra Commons at *www.terracommons.us* .

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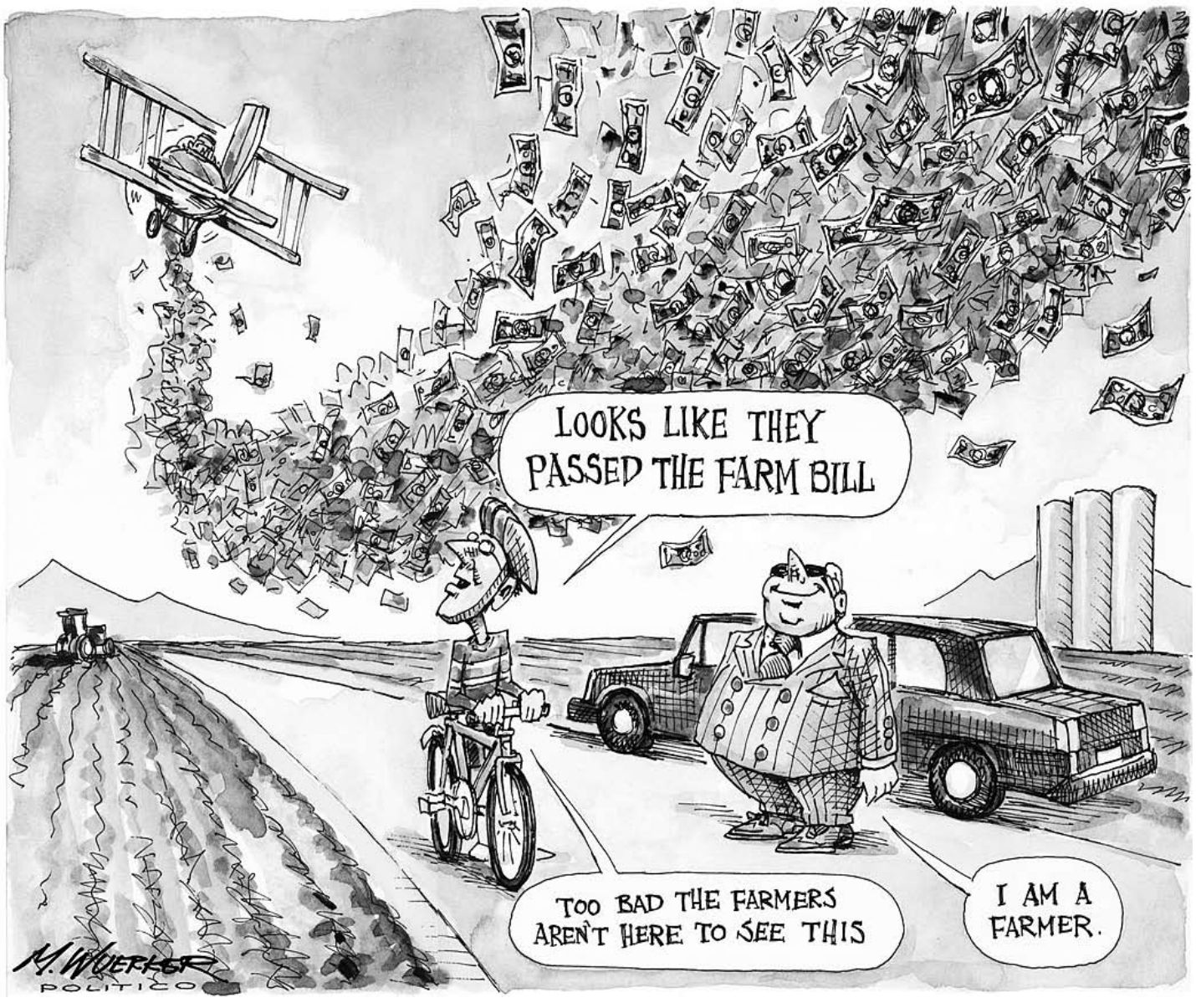

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